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#5

# I HEART SKULL CRUSHER!





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QUEEN VIBES NATIONAL SCREAMING PAIN BALL TOURNAMENT

THIS IS A FINALS TO REMEMBER, FOLKS!

A BATTLE ROYALE...

...IN THE BIGGEST ARENA IN THE HISTORY OF SCREAMING PAIN BALL!

A LEGEND HAS BEEN UNLEASHED ON THE FIELD. AND JUST FOR THIS MATCH, THE RULES ARE CHANGED--SO SHE CAN GAIN POINTS FOR MURDERING PLAYERS WITHOUT THE BALL!

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, WE HAVE A RANDOM ELEMENT IN PLAY.

YOU KNOW HER. YOU LOVE HER. YOU ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO WATCH HER.





GIVE IT  
UP FOR...

...**SKULL-CRUSHER!**

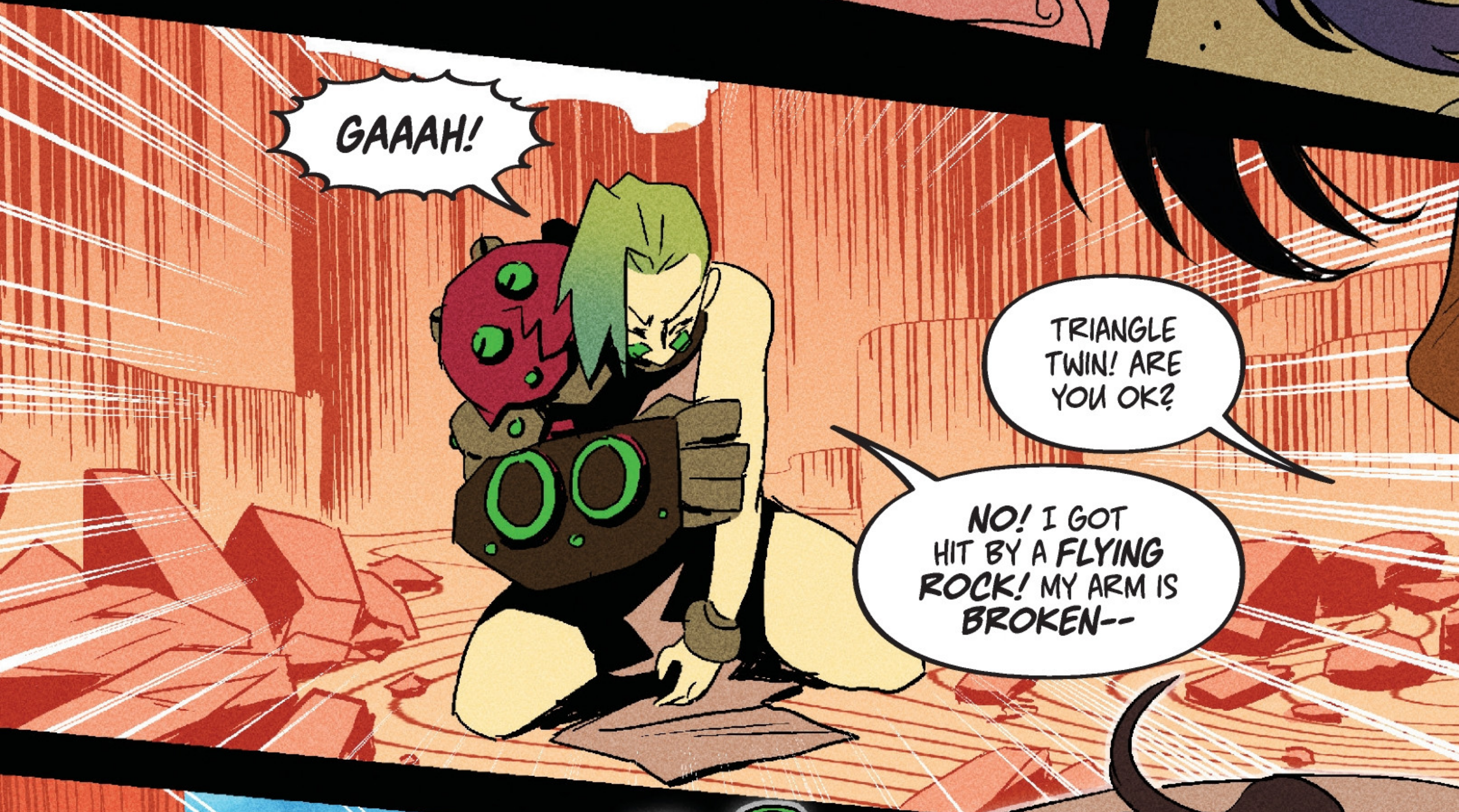




OH MY GOD!  
SKULL-CRUSHER'S  
GOING TO KILL  
US!



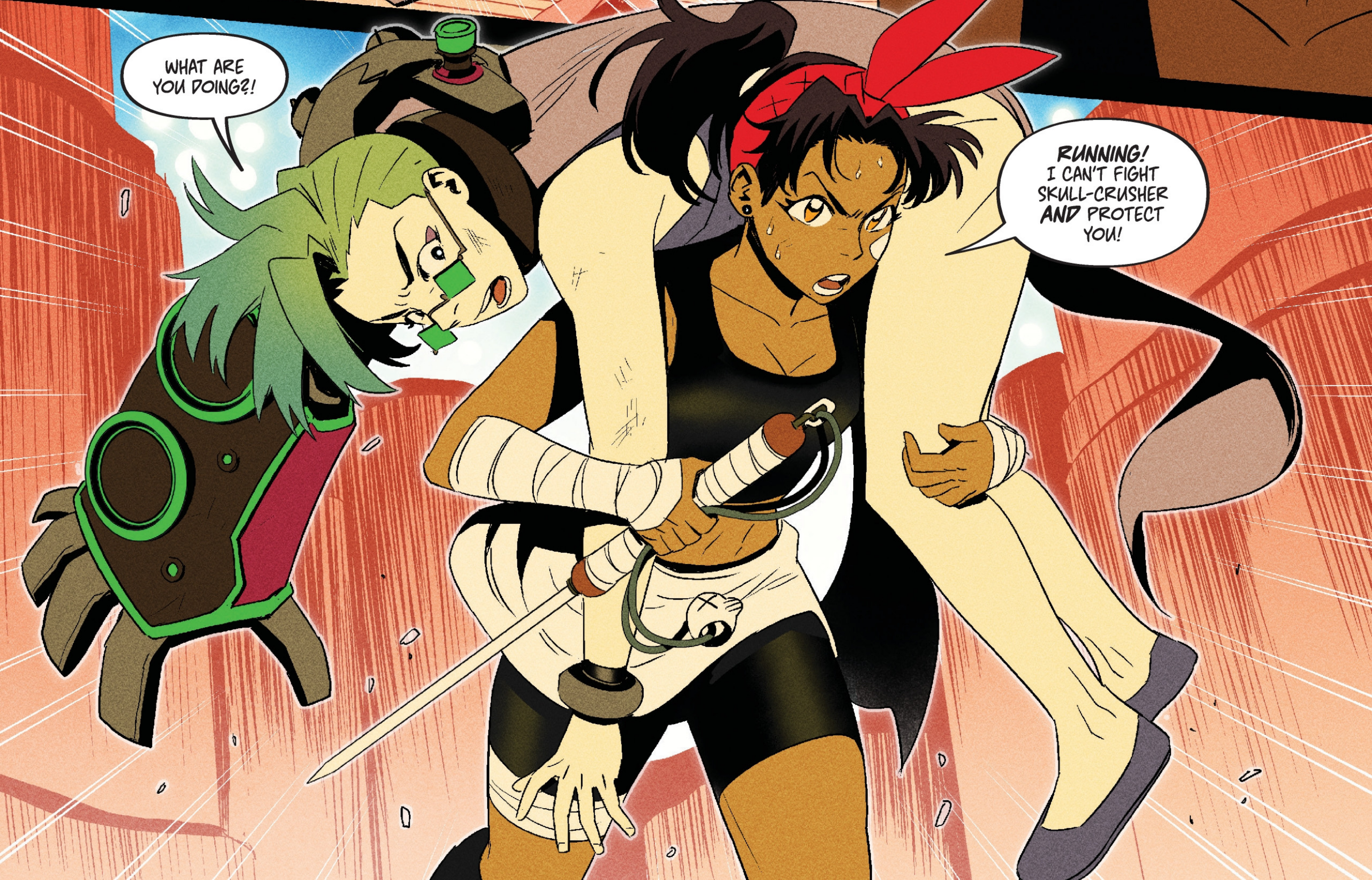
OH MY GOD.  
SKULL-CRUSHER'S  
GOING TO KILL  
US.



GAAAH!

TRIANGLE  
TWIN! ARE  
YOU OK?

NO! I GOT  
HIT BY A FLYING  
ROCK! MY ARM IS  
BROKEN--



WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?!

RUNNING!  
I CAN'T FIGHT  
SKULL-CRUSHER  
AND PROTECT  
YOU!



"WE NEED  
TO FIND THE  
OTHERS!"

YOU  
RATS MIGHT  
HAVE CRAWLED  
UP THE  
RANKS...

...BUT  
NOW THE  
NUNS OF SAINT  
SLAUGHTER  
STAND IN YOUR  
WAY!

"...THAT THEY'RE  
STILL ALIVE."

WHAM

"AND WE  
HAVE TO  
HOPE..."

CLICK

BOOOOOOOOM

SIBLING?  
IS THAT YOU--

DON'T  
LOOK AWAY,  
SCUM!

WHAT  
AN AMAZING  
START!

WITH THE  
BALL HIDDEN, THE  
TEAMS HAVE TURNED  
TO MURDER  
POINTS...

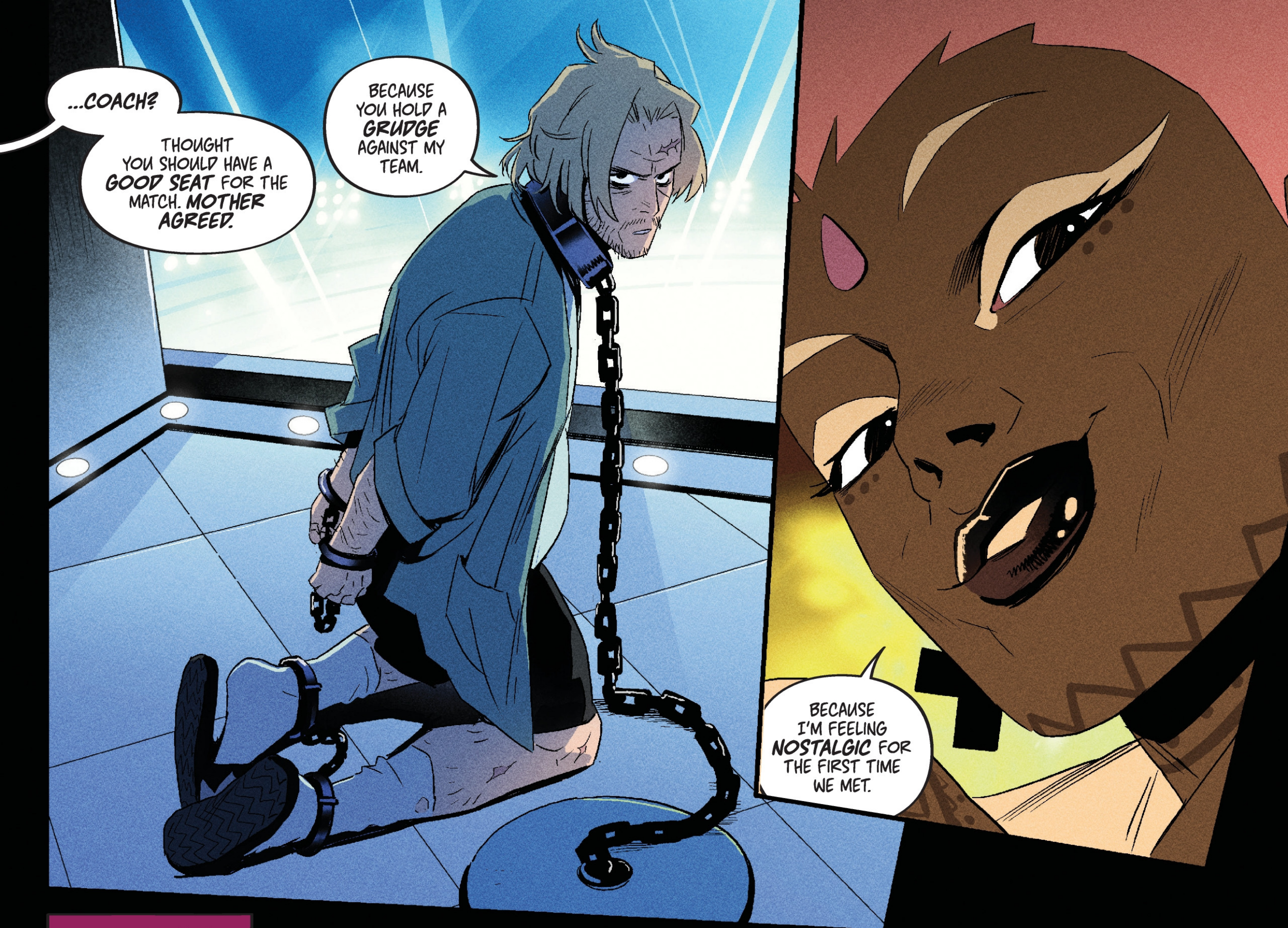
...BUT  
EVERYTHING  
COULD CHANGE  
WITH THE TYRANT  
SURPRISE!

THE  
ROCKET  
BOOSTERS  
ARE READY,  
SIR.

YOU WILL  
ADDRESS ME AS  
YOUR DREAD  
LORDSHIP.

ISN'T THAT  
RIGHT...





...COACH?

THOUGHT  
YOU SHOULD HAVE A  
GOOD SEAT FOR THE  
MATCH. MOTHER  
AGREE?

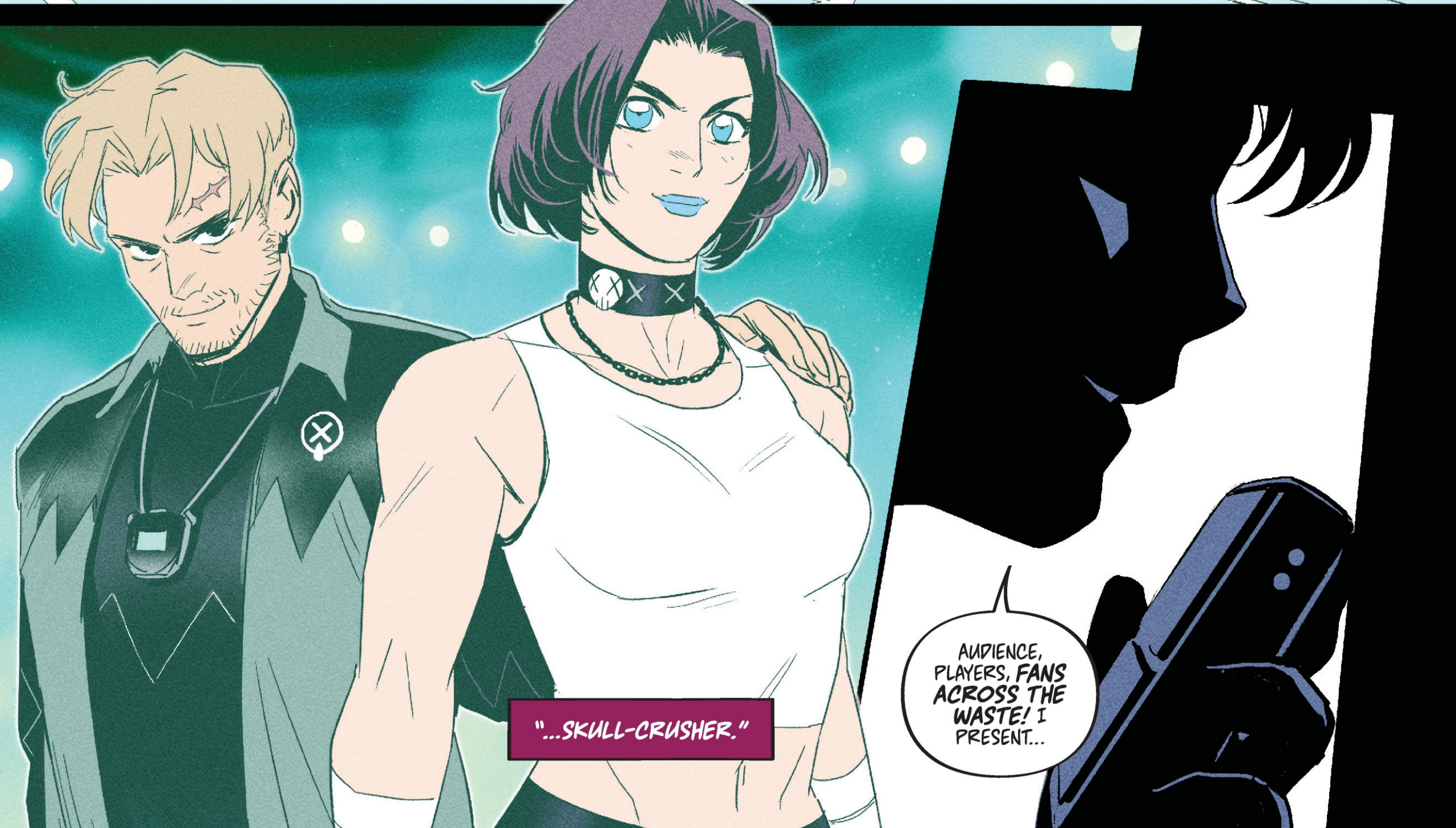
BECAUSE  
YOU HOLD A  
**GRUDGE**  
AGAINST MY  
TEAM.

BECAUSE  
I'M FEELING  
**NOSTALGIC** FOR  
THE FIRST TIME  
WE MET.

"THAT PRIVATE  
MATCH, ALL THOSE  
YEARS AGO.



"THE ONE THAT DETERMINED WHO WOULD  
JOIN MY NEW LEAGUE. WHERE YOU  
DEBUTED YOUR BELOVED PROTEGÉE...



"...SKULL-CRUSHER."

AUDIENCE,  
PLAYERS, FANS  
ACROSS THE  
WASTE! I  
PRESENT...



...MY TYRANT'S  
SURPRISE!

WELL,  
PODUNK?

HOW  
DO YOU  
LIKE ME  
NOW?

AAAGH

AAAIE

GYAAHH

CRAAAAAACK

FWOOSH









EVERYONE,  
PULL--

WHAM

WHOOOOOSH

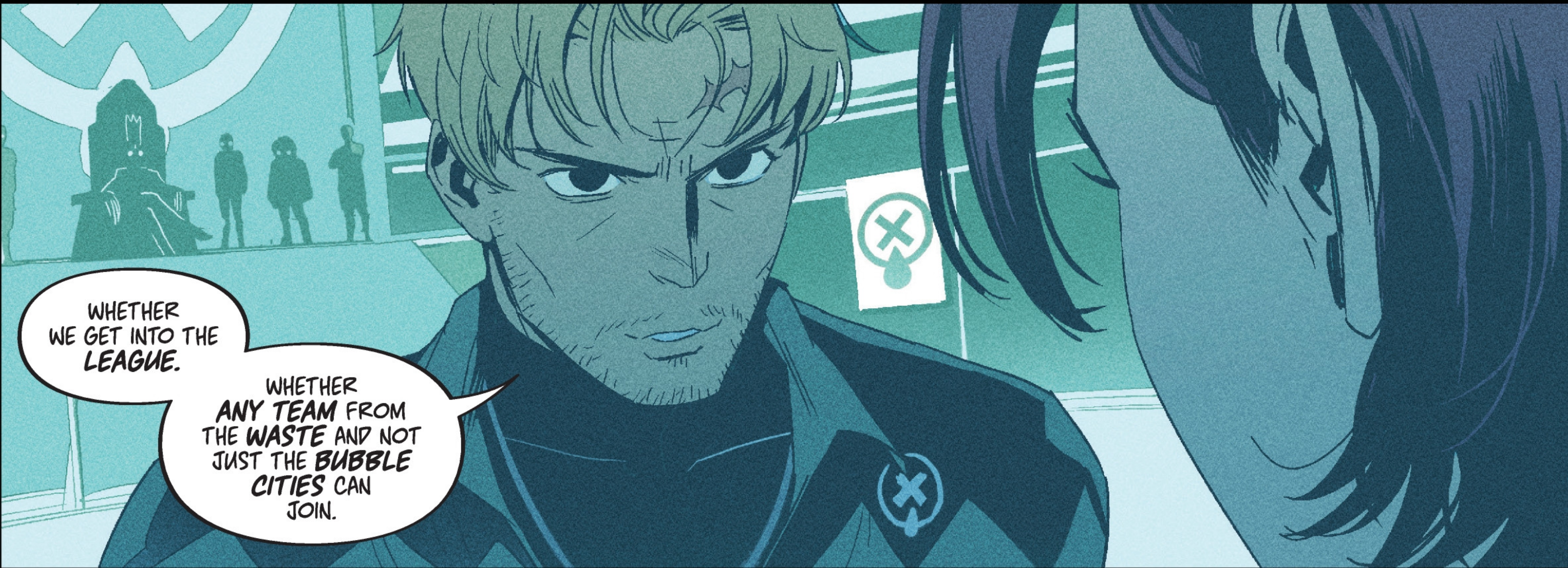
WELL,  
CRAP.

AHHHHHH!

WHAM




"EVERYTHING  
IS RIDING ON  
THIS GAME."



WHETHER  
WE GET INTO THE  
LEAGUE.

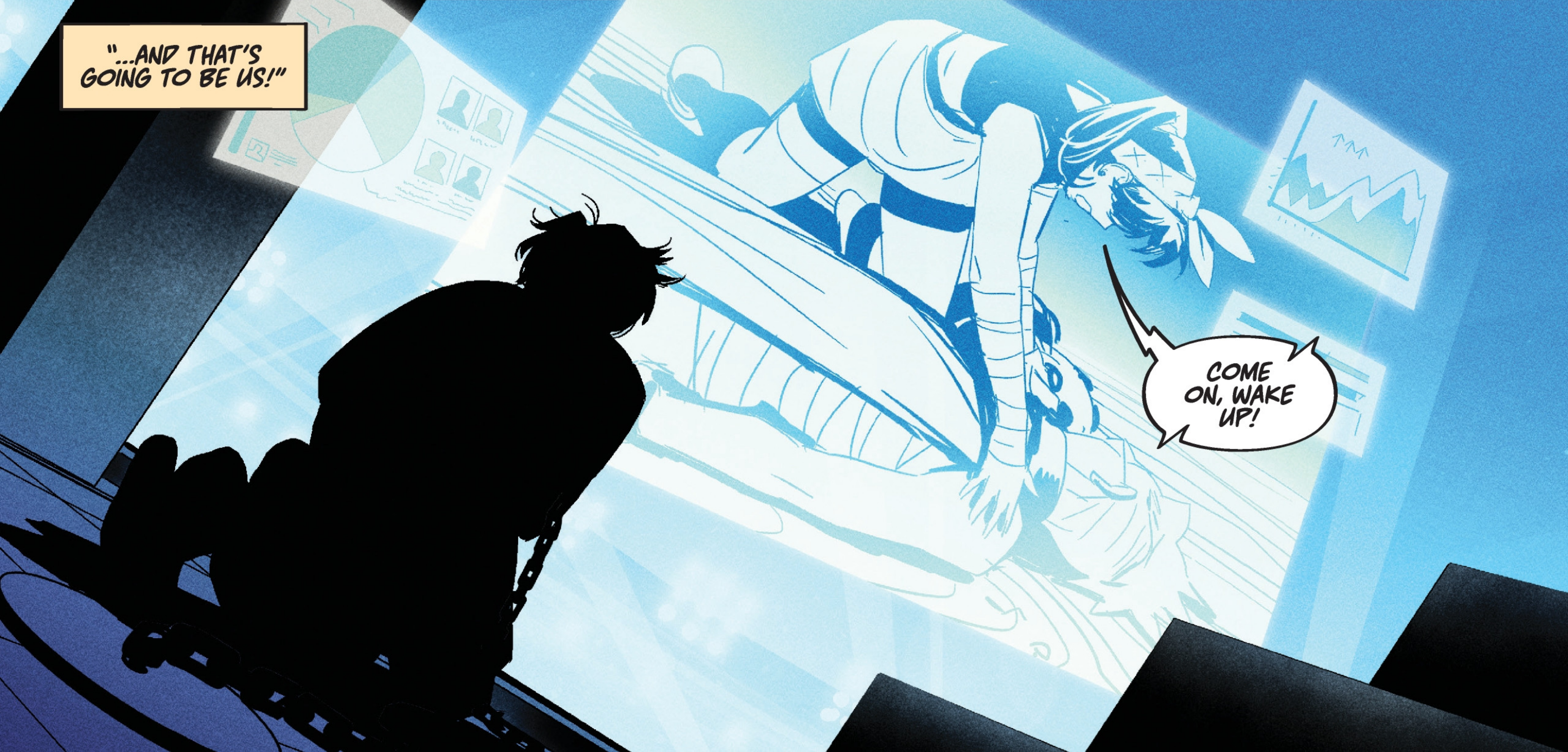
WHETHER  
ANY TEAM FROM  
THE WASTE AND NOT  
JUST THE BUBBLE  
CITIES CAN  
JOIN.



THE  
DREAMS  
AND FATES OF  
EVERY WASTELAND  
PLAYER RESTS  
ON YOU.

THERE'S  
ONLY ROOM  
FOR ONE AT  
THE TOP...

"...AND THAT'S  
GOING TO BE US!"



COME  
ON, WAKE  
UP!





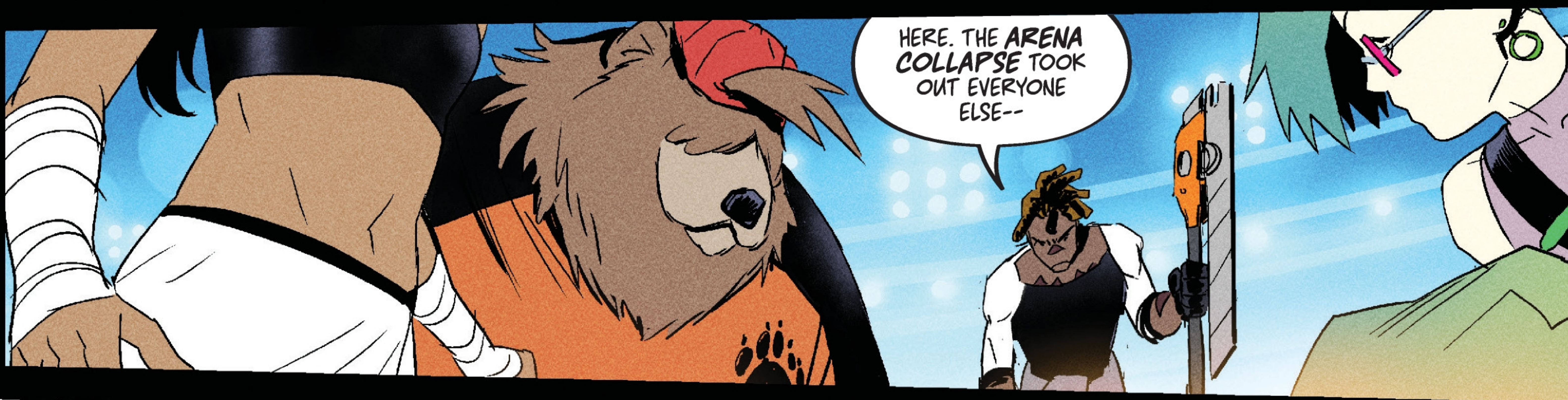
I NEED YOU!  
YOU AND YOUR  
SIBLING ARE OUR  
**PERFECT  
DEFENSE,**  
REMEMBER?

I DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
YOUR NAME  
YET! SO **STAY**  
WITH US--



**SIBLING!**  
YOU'RE  
**HURT!**

WHERE'S  
**DAN?**



HERE. THE **ARENA  
COLLAPSE** TOOK  
OUT EVERYONE  
ELSE--



WHICH  
IS WHY I TOLD  
YOU AT THE  
**BALL...**

**...YOU  
CAN'T WIN  
THIS.**





IT WAS  
YOU I SPOKE  
TO IN THE  
SHADOWS.



"TRINI!"

"R-RIGHT!"

"SHE'S DOING HER TOSS  
AND DODGE MOVE!  
WE'VE TRAINED FOR  
THIS. DAN--"



LET'S  
SEE YOU DODGE  
THIS, SOON TO BE  
SECOND BEST  
PLAYER--



YOU  
STUDIED ME.  
DID YOU REALLY  
THINK...





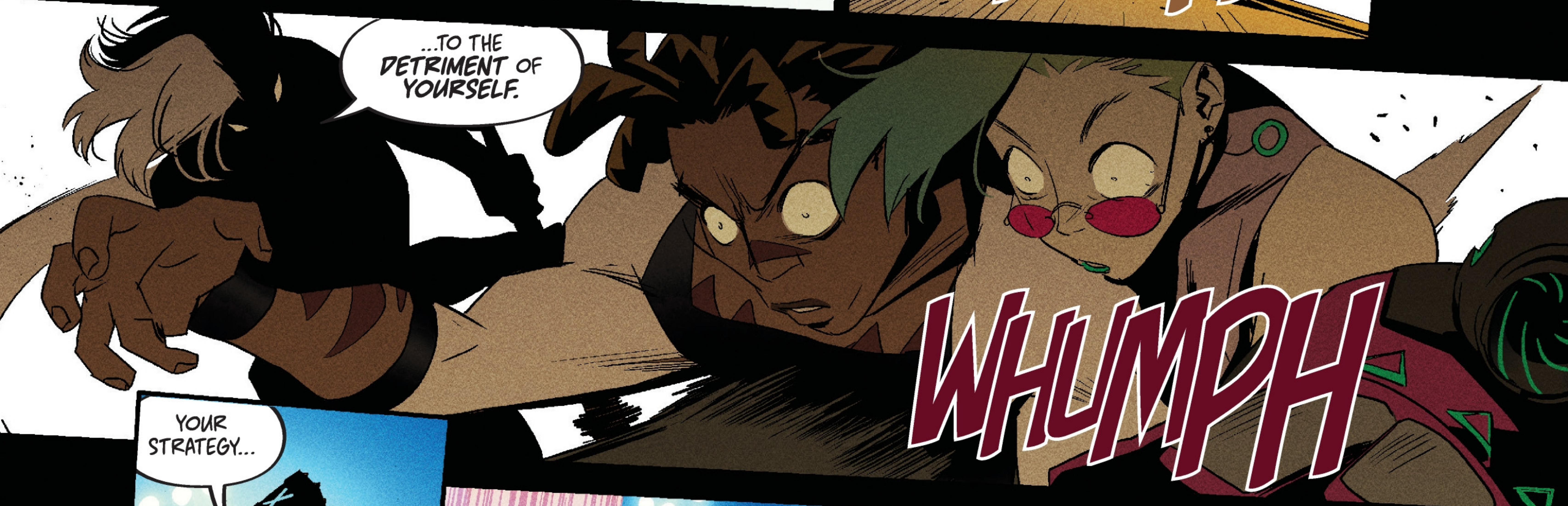
...I WOULDN'T  
DO THE SAME?

AHHH!



YOU RELY  
ON YOUR  
TEAM...

CRASH



...TO THE  
DETIMENT OF  
YOURSELF.

WHUMPH



YOUR  
STRATEGY...



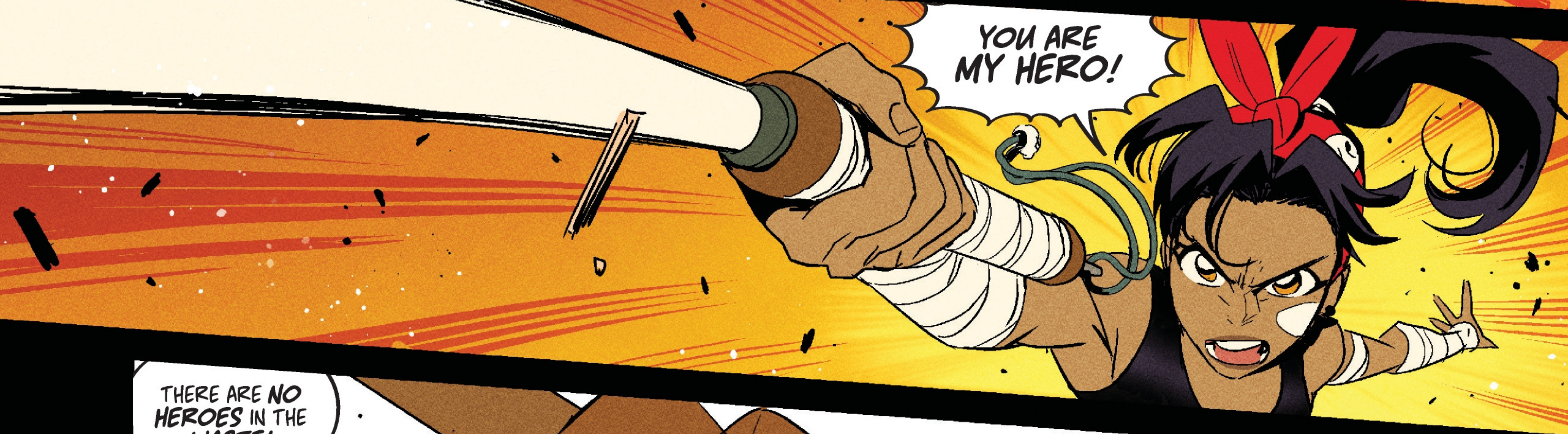
...IS  
THE TACTIC  
OF THE  
WEAK.







IT'S NOT WEAK!  
I BASED EVERYTHING OFF YOU!



YOU ARE MY HERO!

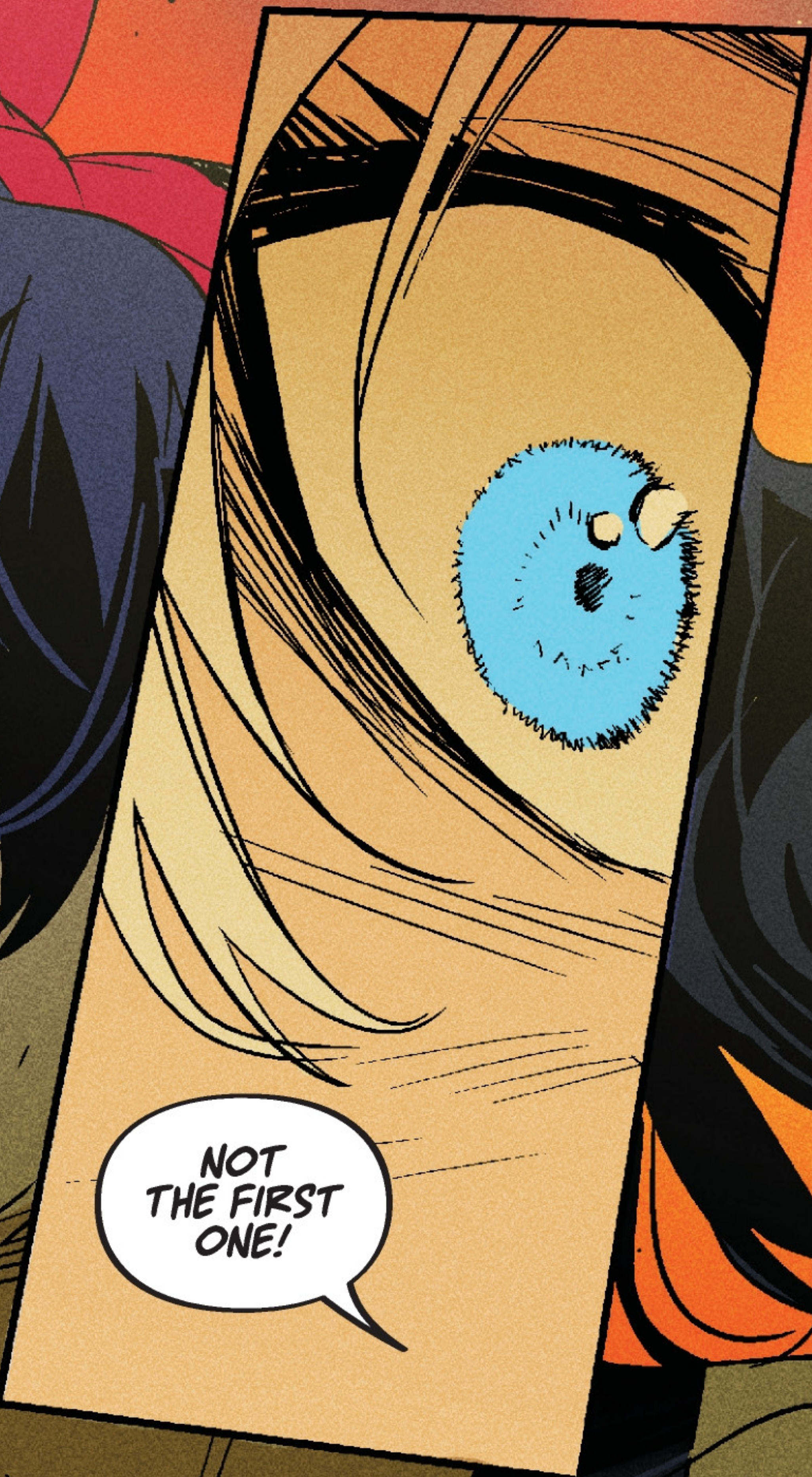
THERE ARE NO HEROES IN THE WASTE!



YOU ARE WHY ALL OF US ARE HERE! YOU ARE OUR HERO--

STOP SAYING THAT!

NO! I'VE SEEN ALL YOUR MATCHES--



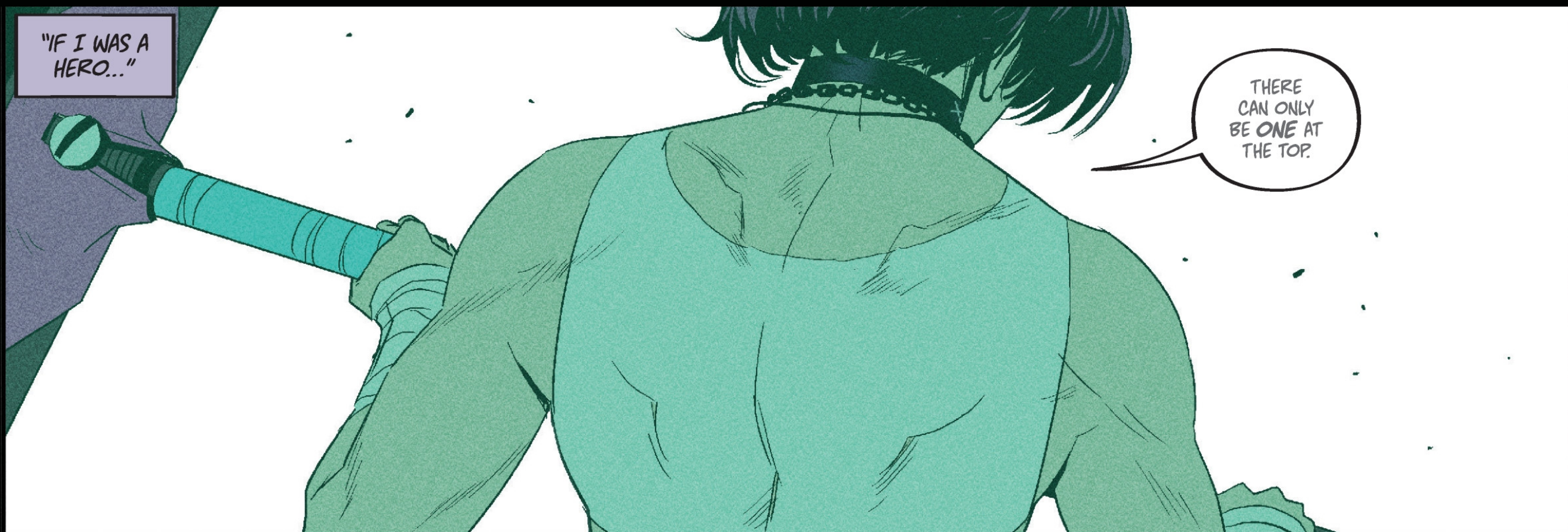
NOT THE FIRST ONE!





SKULL-CRUSHER'S  
TEAM IS MOMENTS AWAY  
FROM SUCCUMBING TO  
THEIR INJURIES.

WHEN THEY  
DO, THE DEFENDERS WILL  
EARN FOUR MURDER  
POINTS. ENOUGH TO  
WIN.



"IF I WAS A  
HERO..."

THERE  
CAN ONLY  
BE ONE AT  
THE TOP.



A TEAM  
IS MORE THAN  
ONE.



"WELL,  
I'M NOT A  
HERO."

**CRUNCH**



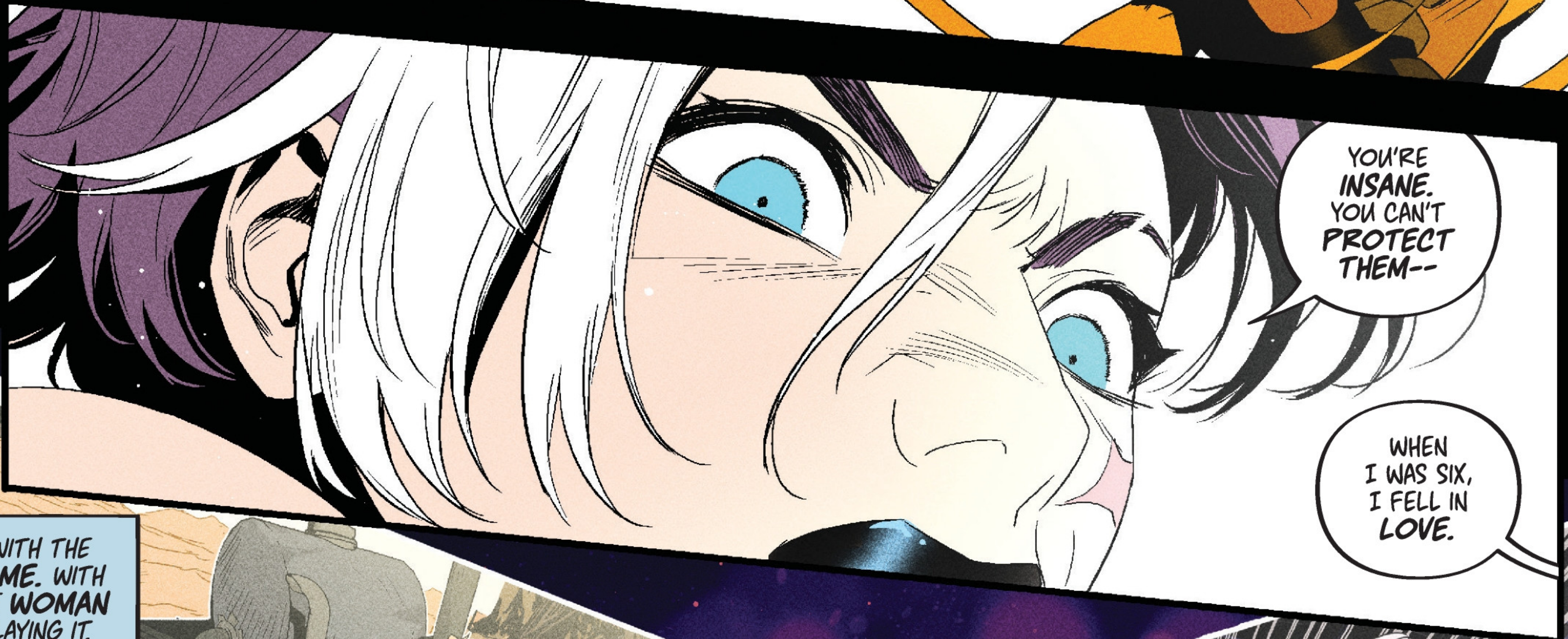






WHAM

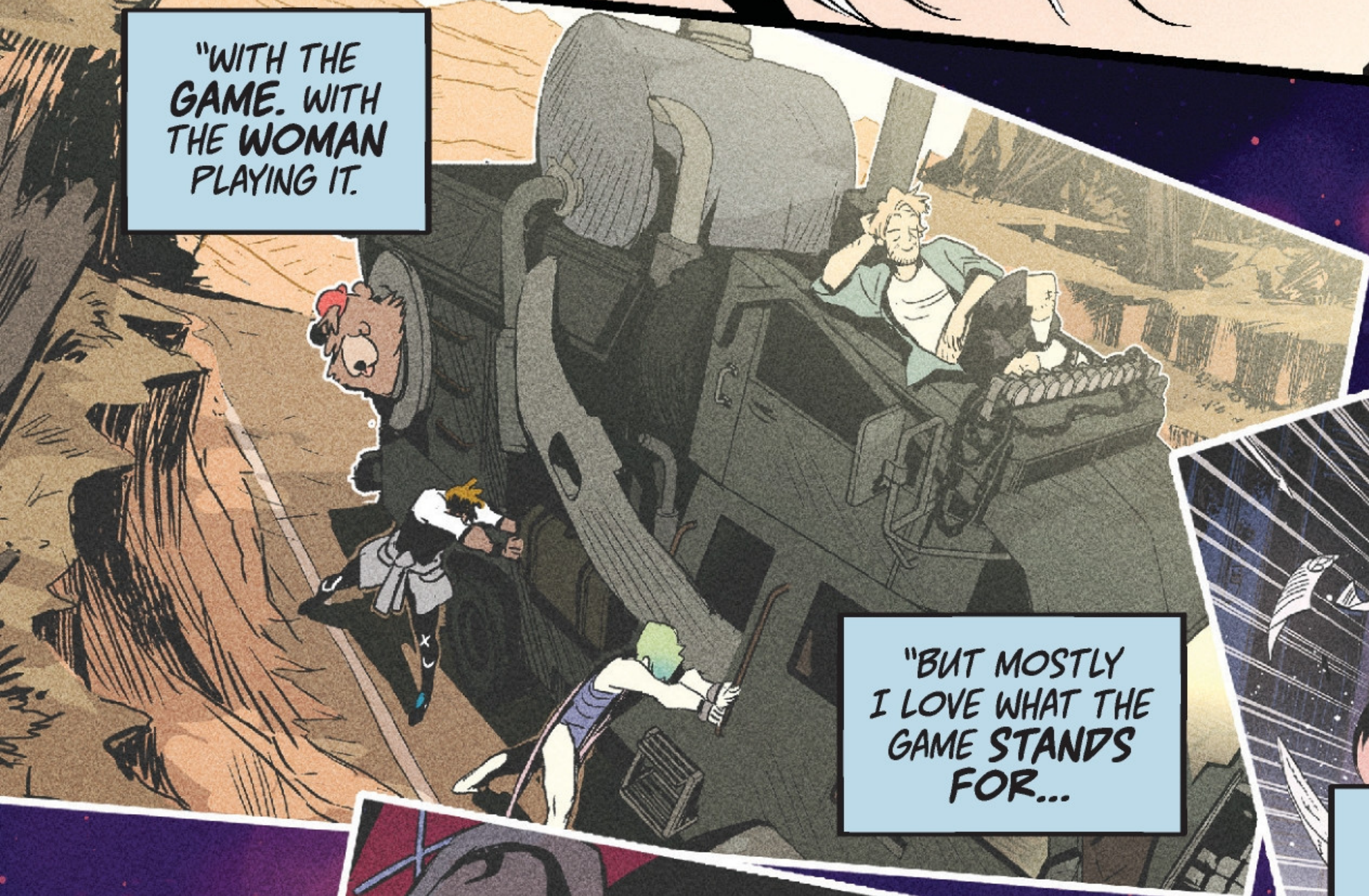
ARRGHHH!



YOU'RE INSANE.  
YOU CAN'T PROTECT THEM--

WHEN I WAS SIX,  
I FELL IN LOVE.

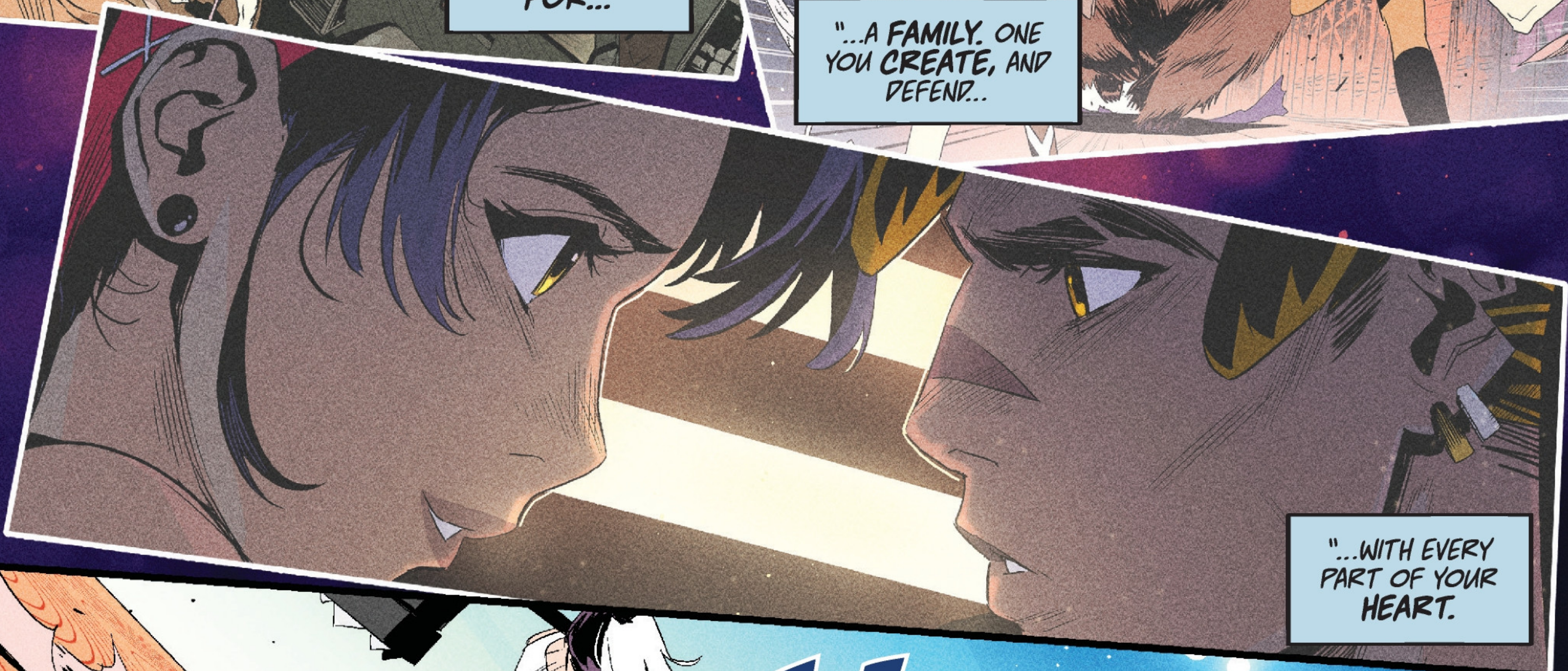
"WITH THE GAME. WITH THE WOMAN PLAYING IT."



"BUT MOSTLY I LOVE WHAT THE GAME STANDS FOR..."



"...A FAMILY. ONE YOU CREATE, AND DEFEND..."



"...WITH EVERY PART OF YOUR HEART."



WHAM



"EVERYONE THINKS I'M INSANE. BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S ACTUALLY CRAZY?"



"BEING UNABLE  
TO DREAM."

WHAT A TWIST!  
SKULL-CRUSHER'S BLOW  
SENT TRINI WASTELANDER  
CLEAR ACROSS THE  
ARENA...

THUMP

...RIGHT  
TO WHERE THE  
BALL WAS  
HIDDEN!

"BEING UNABLE TO HOPE FOR  
A FUTURE WHERE YOU CAN  
LOVE AND BE LOVED."

"MY DREAM IS TO WIN AGAINST  
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS..."

"...FOR THEM."

"I KNOW  
MY DREAM IS  
INSANE..."

HOLY BAD  
WEEK! WITH ONLY THIRTY  
SECONDS LEFT ON THE  
CLOCK...





...BUT INSANE  
DREAMS ARE THE  
ONLY ONES WORTH  
HAVING!

...PODUNK  
JUST  
SCORED!



HAHAHAHAHAHA!

DID YOU  
SEE THAT!?  
SHE'S STILL  
PLAYING!

PODUNK  
WINS!

NO, SHE LOSES.  
SKULL-CRUSHER HAS  
MORE MURDER  
POINTS--

NOT  
AGAINST PODUNK.  
THEY'RE ALL STILL  
ALIVE.

TRINI  
JUST SCORED  
THE MOST  
POINTS.

NO.  
IT'S NOT  
OVER--

YOU'RE ONLY  
HERE BECAUSE  
I FIND YOU FUNNY.  
DON'T PUSH  
IT.

SHINK

I'M YOUR  
SON...

YOU'RE  
NOT THE  
ONLY  
ONE.

RIGHT  
NOW...I'M  
CONSIDERING A  
CHANGE OF  
HEIR.

CALL  
IT.

THAT'S T-TIME,  
FOLKS.

THE  
WINNER  
IS...





...PODUNK  
LIL' TEAM!!

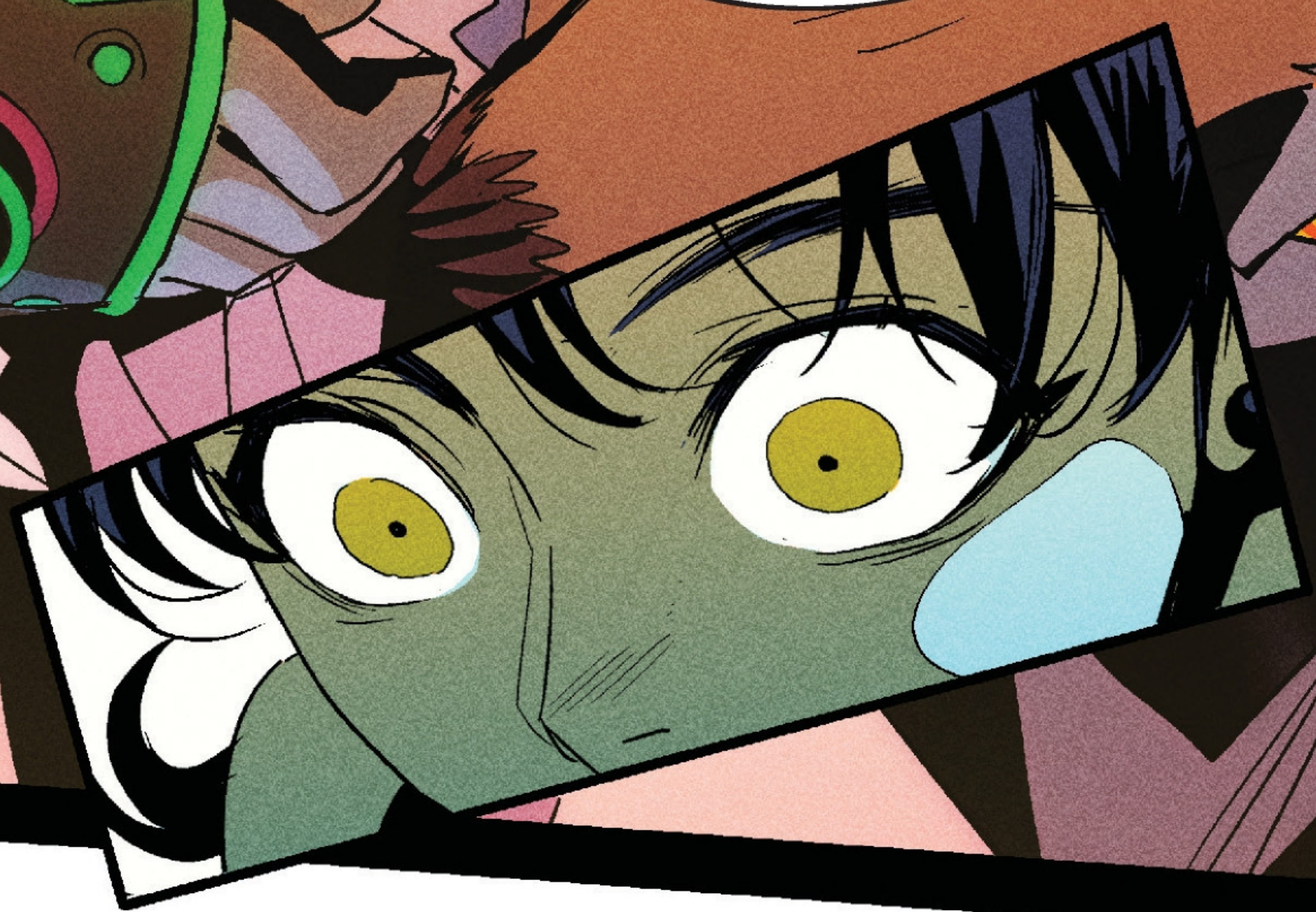
YOU  
DID IT. YOU  
DID IT!

HELL  
YES! AND MY  
NAME IS VICK  
YOU INSANE  
WOMAN!

I'M VIA!  
REMEMBER  
IT!

WE...WE'RE IN  
THE OFFICIAL  
LEAGUE!

WE'RE  
ALL JOINING  
SKULL-CRUSHER'S  
TEAM...







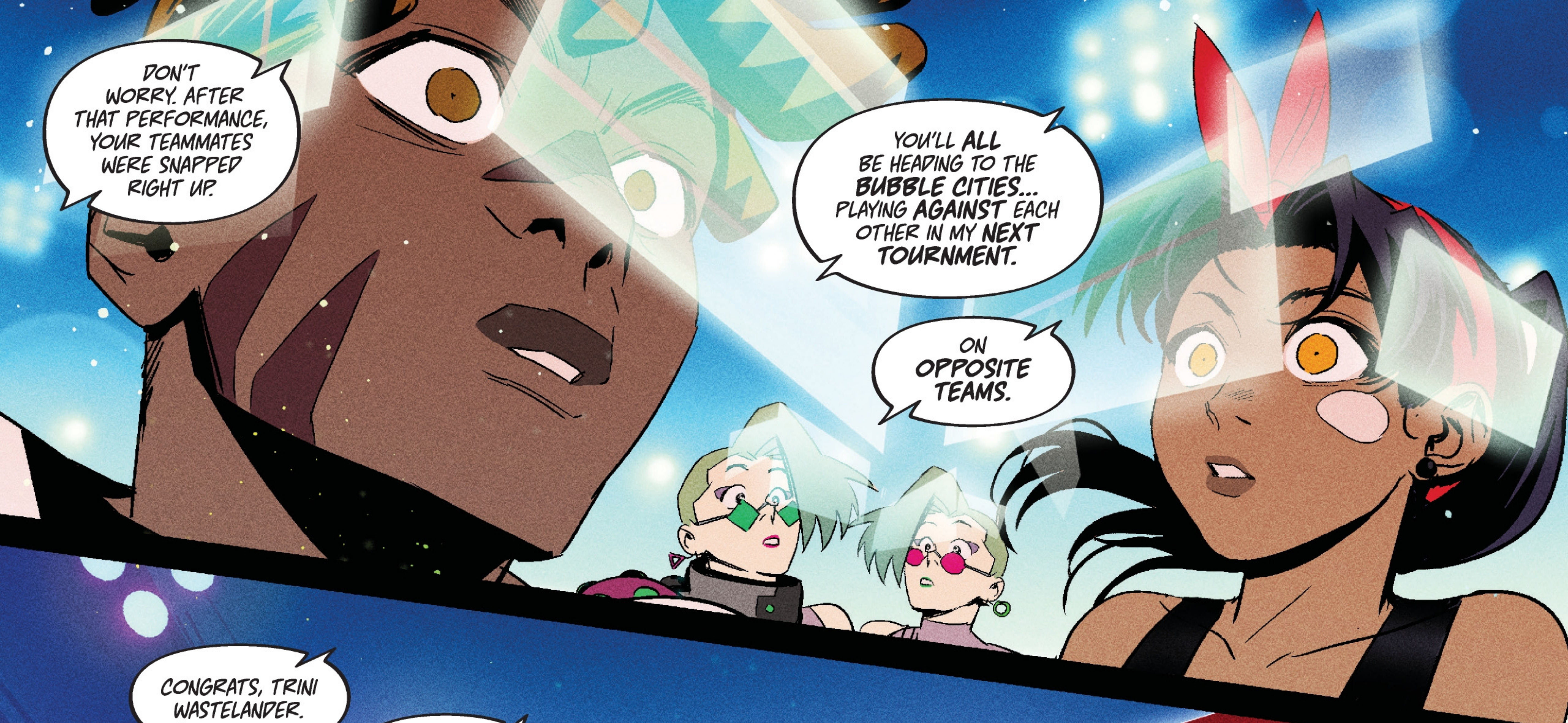
"WE'RE JOINING  
SKULL-CRUSHER."

HA! I NEVER  
SAID THE WINNERS  
WOULD JOIN  
SKULL-CRUSHER.

I SAID  
THE WINNER.  
SINGULAR.

AS IN  
JUST THE TEAM  
CAPTAIN.





DON'T WORRY. AFTER THAT PERFORMANCE, YOUR TEAMMATES WERE SNAPPED RIGHT UP.

YOU'LL ALL BE HEADING TO THE BUBBLE CITIES... PLAYING AGAINST EACH OTHER IN MY NEXT TOURNAMENT.

ON OPPOSITE TEAMS.

CONGRATS, TRINI WASTELANDER.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO WIN?



The family Trini has created... are the ones she'll have to KILL in the LEAGUE!

The action CONTINUES in our NEXT STORY ARC:  
**I HEART SKULL-CRUSHER! BUBBLE CITY BLUES.**